

## **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUL 0 2 2015

GENERAL NOTICE LETTER-- URGENT LEGAL MATTER
PROMPT REPLY NECESSARY, CERTIFIED MAIL: #7014 0150 0000 2454 7679
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OYO Corporation U.S.A. A/K/A OYO Geospace 245 N. Carmelo Ave., Ste 101 Pasadena, California 91107-3278

RE: General Notice Letter for the CES Environmental Services, Inc. - Houston Superfund Site in

Houston, Harris County, Texas

### Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of your potential liability at the CES Environmental Services, Inc. - Houston Superfund Site (Site) and to invite you to join in settlement negotiations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The street address for the Site is 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. The street addresses of the contiguous properties that are part of the Site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational and commercial properties. Based on available information, the EPA has determined that you may be responsible under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the federal "Superfund" law, for cleanup of the Site or costs the EPA has incurred in cleaning up the Site.

# **Explanation of Potential Liability**

A Superfund Site is a place that is contaminated with hazardous substances at levels that may present a threat to human health or the environment. Under Sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607, potentially responsible parties (PRPs) may be required to perform cleanup actions to protect the public health and welfare or the environment. PRPs may also be responsible for costs incurred by the EPA in cleaning up the Site. PRPs include current and former owners and operators of the Site, as well as persons who sent or transported hazardous substances to the Site for disposal or treatment or who arranged for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at the Site.

Under CERCLA, specifically Sections 106(a) and 107(a), PRPs may be required to perform cleanup actions to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment. PRPs may also be responsible for costs incurred by the EPA in cleaning up the Site, unless the PRP can show divisibility of harm or any of the statutory defenses. PRPs include current and former owners and operators of a site, as well as persons who arranged for treatment and/or disposal of any hazardous substances found at the site, and persons who accepted hazardous substances for transport and selected the site to which the hazardous substances were delivered.

You have been identified as a PRP who either sent hazardous substances for disposal or treatment to the Site or generated certain hazardous substances that the EPA has found at the Site. For this reason, the attached General Notice concerning the removal action (Enclosure 1) is being sent to you. The General Notice requests your cooperation in conducting the on-going removal action at the Site and for reimbursement of past and future costs. Enclosure 2 contains examples of the documents used to identify you as a PRP. Enclosure 3 contains a list of the entities who are receiving, or who have received, this General Notice.

## Site Background

This Site is a former chemical recycling facility that filed for bankruptcy in 2010. Prior to the bankruptcy, the Site had been owned and operated by CES Environmental Services, Inc. The Site is now under the control of a Trustee for the Estate appointed by the Bankruptcy Court. The Estate does not have the funding necessary to address the conditions at the Site. The Site consisted of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, two roll-off boxes, 12 frac tanks, two tanker trailers, 20 aboveground storage tanks, 15 waste water treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums, and smaller containers. Additionally, there is spillage of chemicals to exterior surfaces as well as building interiors. The Site has experienced significant vandalism since its bankruptcy in 2010, including recent vandalism that caused additional spillage of chemicals and waste to the ground surface and into an adjacent residential neighborhood. Emergency responses to these spills have involved the Estate, City of Houston, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the EPA. These spill responses were addressed by TCEQ and the EPA.

The information provided by the Estate's consultant shows that there are hazardous wastes along with various hazardous substances within containers located on the Site. The hazardous substances include but are not limited to benzene (D018), creosol (D023-026), 2,4,6-trichlorophenol (D042), pH (D002), ignitability (D001), MEK (D035), and 1,2-dichloroethane (D028). These chemicals are hazardous substances as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S. C. 9601(14), and further defined at 40 C.F.R. 302.4.

On June 10, 2015, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality signed a Voluntary Cleanup Program Agreement with the CES Griggs Road PRP Group (CES Group). The agreement requires the CES Group submit to TCEQ an Affected Property Assessment Report not later than December 31, 2015, a Response Action Plan not later than 120 days after TCEQ's approval of Affected Property Assessment Report, and a Response Action Completion Report not later than 90 days after completion of the response action. The agreement also requires the CES Group establish and maintain a website accessible to the public to keep the public informed of ongoing activities at the Site.

# Response Actions to Date

On or about September 3, 2014, the EPA mobilized its contractors to begin addressing the wastes and spills at the Site. On June 10, 2015, the EPA demobilized from the Site.

As of June 3, 2015, the EPA Team and the Trustee had addressed the following:

1. Management of storm water to reduce off-site overflow of contaminated storm water from the Site.

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2. Removal of wastes from ten of twelve vacuum boxes and from two of two roll-off boxes.

- 3. Removal of wastes from eight of 12 frac tanks. Three frac tanks currently hold wastes.
- 4. Removal of liquid, i.e., pumpable wastes from 11 of 23 aboveground storage tanks (AST). Sludge and residual materials remain until sludge removal and tank cleaning of ASTs is completed.
- 5. Empty totes/drums have been segregated for temporary storage.
- 6. Waste piles dumped to the ground from the theft of seven roll-off boxes were removed by the Trustee.
- 7. Lab chemicals/company process samples were collected and disposed by the Trustee.
- 8. Process chemicals were collected and disposed by the Trustee.

Upon reviewing the enclosed General Notice, please provide a written response to Mr. Robert Werner, Enforcement Officer at 214-665-6724 within 60 calendar days after you receive this letter. Your response must identify your intent to, or not to, enter into settlement negotiations with the EPA concerning this matter. Please mail your written response to Mr. Werner at the address that appears in the General Notice.

We look forward to working with you during the coming months.

Sincerely yours,

Carl E. Edlund, P.E

Director

**Superfund Division** 

Enclosures (4)

# ENCLOSURE 1 GENERAL NOTICE REGARDING CES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. - HOUSTON HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

This General Notice is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This General Notice is directed to you, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) of the CES Environmental Services, Inc.-Houston Site (Site). This General Notice does five things:

- 1. This General Notice tells you that you may be responsible for the presence of hazardous substances found at the Site. When we say "Site" or "property" in this General Notice, we mean the CES Environmental Services, Inc.- Houston Site. The street address for the Site is 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. The street addresses of the contiguous properties that are parts of the Site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. This General Notice is issued under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund).
- 2. This General Notice provides you with background information leading up to the EPA's investigation of the Site and the EPA's activities to determine the source(s) of the contamination at the Site.
- 3. This General Notice invites you to meet and enter a settlement with the EPA as a Settling Party regarding the cleanup of this Site and cooperation in conducting the on-going removal action at the Site and for reimbursement of past and future costs.
- 4. This General Notice advises you that, if you request the EPA to do so, the EPA will consider your ability to pay in determining an appropriate settlement amount.
- 5. This General Notice provides to you the names of all entities, i.e., PRPs, to which this General Notice will be mailed.

## NOTICE THAT YOU MAY BE LIABLE

Under Section 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607, responsible parties are those who are current owners or operators of a facility, past owners or operators who owned or operated the facility at the time hazardous substances were released or disposed of at the facility, persons who arranged for disposal or treatment at the facility (usually the person(s) who generated the hazardous substance) or persons who selected that facility and transported the hazardous substances to the facility. Section 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607, states that responsible parties are liable to the United States for the costs it has incurred or will incur conducting a response action such as that proposed for the Site. A PRP is therefore responsible for performing the cleanup action in accordance with the EPA requirements, paying for the cleanup by the EPA and reimbursing the Federal Government for past and future costs of the cleanup activities.

## **BACKGROUND**

This Site is a former chemical recycling facility that filed for bankruptcy in 2010. Prior to the bankruptcy, the Site had been owned and operated by CES Environmental Services, Inc. The Site is now under the control of a Trustee for the Estate appointed by the Bankruptcy Court. The Estate does not

have the funding necessary to address the conditions at the Site. The Site consisted of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, two roll-off boxes, 12 frac tanks, two tanker trailers, 20 aboveground storage tanks, 15 waste water treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums, and smaller containers. Additionally, there is spillage of chemicals to exterior surfaces as well as building interiors. The Site has experienced significant vandalism since its bankruptcy in 2010, including recent vandalism that caused additional spillage of chemicals and waste to the ground surface and into an adjacent residential neighborhood. Emergency responses to these spills have involved the Estate, City of Houston, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the EPA. These spill responses were addressed by TCEQ and the EPA.

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# **Response Actions to Date**

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As of June 3, 2015, the EPA and the Trustee had addressed the following:

- 1. Management of storm water to reduce off-site overflow of contaminated storm water from the Site.
- 2. Removal of wastes from ten of twelve vacuum boxes and from two of two roll-off boxes.
- 3. Removal of wastes from eight of twelve frac tanks. Three frac tanks currently hold wastes.
- 4. Removal of liquid, i.e., pump able, wastes from eleven of twenty-three aboveground storage tanks (AST). Sludge and residual materials remain until sludge removal and tank cleaning of ASTs is completed.
- 5. Empty totes/drums have been segregated for temporary storage.
- 6. Waste piles dumped to the ground from the theft of seven roll-off boxes was removed by the Trustee.

- 7. Lab chemicals/company process samples were collected and disposed by the Trustee.
- 8. Process chemicals were collected and disposed by the Trustee.
- 9. Waste piles dumped to the ground from the theft of seven roll-off boxes was removed by the Trustee.
- 10. Lab chemicals/company process samples were collected and disposed of by the Trustee.
- 11. Process chemicals were collected and disposed by the Trustee.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The EPA is inviting you to enter into a settlement with the EPA. In addition to avoiding the costs of litigation, settling with the EPA provides you with another advantage. Under the Superfund law, settling with the EPA helps protect you should another responsible party sue you for costs which that party pays to the EPA. Also, if you choose not to settle with the EPA, then the EPA may take civil administrative action and, ultimately, the EPA may request civil judicial action. A list of entities receiving this General Notice letter is included as Enclosure 3 to this letter.

## **OPPORTUNITY TO MEET**

The EPA will also provide you the opportunity to meet with the EPA representatives to discuss your desire to enter into a settlement with the EPA.

# FINANCIAL CONCERNS/ABILITY TO PAY SETTLEMENTS

The EPA is aware the financial ability of some PRPs to contribute toward the cleanup and/or payment of response costs at a site may be substantially limited. If you believe and can document that you fall within that category, please contact Mr. Robert Werner at 214-665-6724 for information on "Ability to Pay Settlements." In response, you will receive a package of information about the potential for such settlements. If the EPA concludes that you have a legitimate inability to pay the full amount of the EPA's costs, the EPA may offer a schedule for payment over time or a reduction in the total amount demanded from you.

Also, please note that because the EPA has a potential claim against you, if your financial status changes in any significant way, i.e., filing for bankruptcy, you must include the EPA as a creditor.

# RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

On January 11, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Superfund Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. This Act contains several exemptions and defenses to CERCLA liability, which we suggest that all parties evaluate. You may obtain a copy of the law via the Internet at:

http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/sblrbra.htm

and review the EPA guidance regarding these exemptions at:

http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/cleanup/superfund

The EPA has created a number of helpful resources for small businesses. The EPA has established the National Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse as well as Compliance Assistance Centers, which offer various forms of resources to small businesses. You may inquire about these resources at <a href="https://www.epa.gov.">www.epa.gov.</a>

In addition, the EPA Small Business Ombudsman may be contacted at <a href="www.epa.gov/sbo.">www.epa.gov/sbo.</a> Finally, the EPA developed a fact sheet about the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA), which is enclosed with this letter (Enclosure 4).

## YOUR RESPONSE TO EPA

Please notify Mr. Werner in writing at the address indicated below within 60 calendar days after you receive this letter to indicate your willingness to enter in good faith as a Settling Party. If the EPA does not receive your written response within 60 calendar days after you receive this letter, the EPA will assume you do not wish be a Settling Party and the EPA will then take whatever actions are necessary to abate the potential threat to human health and the environment posed by contaminants on the property.

Your response to this letter should be directed to:

Mr. Robert Werner Enforcement Officer (6SF-TE) United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75202 Telephone: 214-665-6724, Fax: 214-665-6660

werner.robert@epa.gov

If you or your attorney have legal questions pertaining to this matter, please direct them to:

Ms. Amy Salinas
Assistant Regional Counsel (6RC-S)
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: 214-665-8063, Fax: 214-665-6460
salinas.amy@epa.gov

The discussions of fact or law in this General Notice are meant to help you understand CERCLA and the EPA's actions at the Site. The discussions of fact and law are not final positions on any matter discussed in this General Notice.

# ENCLOSURE 2 GENERAL NOTICE REGARDING CES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. - HOUSTON HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

### **EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENTATION**

## SAMPLES OF EVIDENCE

Enclosed are copies of samples of documented evidence that identifies the name of your company. The examples are not intended to represent all the evidence in CES records. It is only a representative sample that identifies:

- 1. A waste hazardous substance that was generated by your company and was transported to the Site for disposal and/or recycling, or
- 2. A waste hazardous substance that was generated by your company and that was transported in a CES tanker trailer to a facility other than the Site for disposal and/or recycling. The EPA believes that residue of the waste hazardous substance that had been transported in the CES tanker trailer was released at the Site when the interior of the CES tanker trailer was cleaned at the Site.

# CES Environmental Services, Inc.

4904 Griggs Road Houston, TX 77021 Phone: (713) 676-1460 Fax: (713) 676-1676

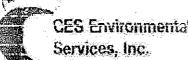
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Oyo Geospace Attn: David Doyle 7007 Pinemont Houston, TX 77040

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# A & B Environmental Services, Inc.

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BILL TO

CES Environmental Services, Inc Attn: Accounts Payable 4904 Griggs Road Houston, TX 77021

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# ENCLOSURE 3 GENERAL NOTICE LETTER REGARDING CES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. - HOUSTON HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

### ALL ENTITIES TO WHICH THIS GENERAL NOTICE HAS BEEN ADDRESSED

# General Notice Letters dated February 20, 2015, mailed to the following entities:

Am Tex Machine Products, Inc.

Andergauge Drilling Systems, C/O National Oilwell Varco, L.P.

Arkema Inc.

**Ball Corporation** 

Canrig Drilling Technology Ltd.

Baytown Asphalt Materials, Ltd.

Citgo Petroleum Corporation

Cross Oil Refining & Marketing, Inc.

**Dover Corporation** 

Advanced Aromatics, L.P.

# General Notice Letters dated February 20, 2015, mailed to the following entities:

Baytown Asphalt Materials, LTD.

Nalco Company

Coastal Chemical Co., L.L.C.

Kuraray America, Inc. corporate successor of Evalca Company of America

Ramsey Properties, L.P. (previously KMCO, Inc.)

The Lubrizol Corporation

Parker-Hannifin Corporation

Philip Reclamation Services, Houston, LLC

Plaquemine Point Shipyard, L.L.C.

PPG Industries, Inc.

Praxair, Inc.

**Proler Southwest Corporation** 

**Quest Chemical Corporation** 

Sierra Chemical Corporation

Skyhawk Chemicals, Inc.

Smithfield BioEnergy LLC

Sochem Solutions, Inc.

Sun Coast Resources, Inc.

T. T. Barge Cleaning Mile 183, Inc.

T. T. Barges Services Mile 237 LLC

T-3 Energy Services, LLC, C/O National Oilwell Varco, L.P.

Taber Extrusions, L.P

Targa Midstream Services LLC

Tenaris Coiled Tubes, LLC

Texas Oil Tools, NOV, C/O National Oilwell Varco, L.P.

Texas Water Management LLC

Total Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc.

TransMontaigne Product Services LLC

Trimac Transportation Inc., Name prior to 2007-01-18 was DSI Transports, Inc.

Valero Refining-Texas, L.P.

Vam USA, LLC

Vertex Recovery, L.P.

Vetco Gray Inc.

Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc.

ZaCH System Corporation

Zap-Lok Pipeline Systems, Inc.

# General Notice Letters dated June 30, 2015, mailed to the following entities:

Creekside Management, Inc., General Partner for Advanced Aromatics, L.P.

David Peters, previously doing business as Affordable Environmental Services

Apex Instruments Corporation

Commercial Metals Company

ConocoPhillips Company

Dana Container, Inc.

Delta Chemical, C/O Delta Petroleum Company, Inc.

Delta Companies, C/O Delta Petroleum Company, Inc.

Dixie Chemical Company, Inc.

Dresser, Inc. d/b/a Dresser Flow Control

Dyna Drill Technologies, LLC

Mr. Daryl Neil Gruthrie, Previously doing business as Edigen, Inc.

Entergy Services, Inc.

**Enterprise Products Company** 

**Ethyl Corporation** 

Farouk Systems, Inc.

Fitzgerald Railcar Services, Inc.

Fluid Sealing Products, Inc.

**Intergulf Corporation** 

Martin Transport, Inc.

Merichem Company (Merichem Chemicals & Refinery Services LLC)

Mission Petroleum Carriers, Inc.

OYO Corporation U.S.A. (Assumed name being Oyo Geospace)

Packless Metal Hose, Inc. (Assumed name being Packless Industries)

Phoenix Pollution Control & Environmental Services, Inc.

Preston Environmental Consultants, L.L.C.

RasGas Company Limited

# ENCLOSURE 4 GENERAL NOTICE LETTER REGARDING CES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. - HOUSTON HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTACHED SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES FACT SHEET



# U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

## **Small Business Programs**

www.epa.gov/smallbusiness EPA's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) advocates and fosters opportunities for direct and indirect partnerships, contracts, and sub-agreements for small businesses and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

### EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman

www.epa.gov/sbo or 1-800-368-5888 The EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

## EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

www2.epa.gov/compliance This page is a gateway industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive webbased information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

## EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers

www.assistancecenters.net EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

# Agriculture

www.epa.gov/agriculture/

Automotive Recycling www.ecarcenter.org

Automotive Service and Repair ccar-greenlink.org/ or 1-888-GRN-LINK

# Chemical Manufacturing www.chemalliance.org

## Construction

www.cicacenter.org or 1-734-995-4911

#### Education

www.campuserc.org

# Food Processing

www.fpeac.org

### Healthcare

www.hercenter.org

# Local Government www.lgean.org

www.igcaii.oig

# Metal Finishing

www.nmfrc.org

# **Paints and Coatings**

www.paintcenter.org

# Printing

www.pneac.org

#### **Ports**

www.portcompliance.org

# Transportation

www.tercenter.org

# U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues

www.bordercenter.org

# **EPA Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses**

www2.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Some examples are:

# Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line

www.epa.gov/ttn/catc or 1-919-541-0800

# Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP and Oil Information Center

www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/index.htm or 1-800-424-9346

# **EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline**

www.epa.gov/otaq/imports or 734-214-4100

# National Pesticide Information Center

www.npic.orst.edu/ or 1-800-858-7378

## **National Response Center**

Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills - www.nrc.uscg.mil or 1-800-424-8802

# Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) - www.epa. gov/opptintr/ppic or 1-202-566-0799

### Safe Drinking Water Hotline www.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm or 1-800-426-4791

# Small Business Resources

### **Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline**

www.epa.gov/ozone/comments.htm or 1-800-296-1996

# Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline tsca-hotline@epa.gov or 1-202-554-1404

#### **Small Entity Compliance Guides**

http://www.epa.gov/sbrefa/compliance-guides.html EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

### Regional Small Business Liaisons

http://www.epa.gov/sbo/rsbl.htm
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional
Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional
contact and often the expert on small business assistance,
advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for
the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

#### **State Resource Locators**

www.envcap.org/statetools

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

# State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

www.epa.gov/sbo/507program.htm

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

#### **EPA's Tribal Portal**

www.epa.gov/tribalportal/

The Portal provides access to information on environmental issues, laws, and resources related to federally recognized tribes.

### **EPA Compliance Incentives**

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

### **EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy**

www2.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement This Policy offers small businesses special incentives to come into compliance voluntarily.

#### **EPA's Audit Policy**

www2.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy The Policy provides incentives to all businesses that voluntarily discover, promptly disclose and expeditiously correct their noncompliance.

# Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

## Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.

# GENERAL NOTICE LETTER-- URGENT LEGAL MATTER PROMPT REPLY NECESSARY, CERTIFIED MAIL: #7014 0150 0000 2454 7457 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

ConocoPhillips Company 600 N. Dairy Ashford Road Houston, Texas 77079

RE: General Notice Letter for the CES Environmental Services, Inc. - Houston Superfund Site in

Houston, Harris County, Texas

#### Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of your potential liability at the CES Environmental Services, Inc. - Houston Superfund Site (Site) and to invite you to join in settlement negotiations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The street address for the Site is 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. The street addresses of the contiguous properties that are part of the Site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational and commercial properties. Based on available information, the EPA has determined that you may be responsible under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the federal "Superfund" law, for cleanup of the Site or costs the EPA has incurred in cleaning up the Site.

# **Explanation of Potential Liability**

A Superfund Site is a place that is contaminated with hazardous substances at levels that may present a threat to human health or the environment. Under Sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607, potentially responsible parties (PRPs) may be required to perform cleanup actions to protect the public health and welfare or the environment. PRPs may also be responsible for costs incurred by the EPA in cleaning up the Site. PRPs include current and former owners and operators of the Site, as well as persons who sent or transported hazardous substances to the Site for disposal or treatment or who arranged for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at the Site.

Under CERCLA, specifically Sections 106(a) and 107(a), PRPs may be required to perform cleanup actions to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment. PRPs may also be responsible for costs incurred by the EPA in cleaning up the Site, unless the PRP can show divisibility of harm or any of the statutory defenses. PRPs include current and former owners and operators of a site, as well as persons who arranged for treatment and/or disposal of any hazardous substances found at the site, and persons who accepted hazardous substances for transport and selected the site to which the hazardous substances were delivered.

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United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Ave; Ste 1200
Dallas, Tx 75202-2733

http://www.epa.gov/region6 1-800-887-6063

REPLY TO MAIL CODE: 65F-TE

Official Business Penalty for Private Use \$300 An Equal Opportunity Employer BAMBIALINI/III SEE



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OYO Corporation U.S.A. A/K/A OYO Geospace 245 N. Carmelo Ave:, Ste 101 Pasadena, California 91107-3278